

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TVCABO Multimedia II
Project Number:	20140111
Country:	Angola
Project Description:	The project concerns the roll-out of optical fibre networks in the cities of Lubango, Huambo, Cabinda and Soyo and the expansion of the existing networks in the metropolitan area of Luanda and in the cities of Lobito and Benguela. An incremental 83 300 new sites (businesses, institutions and homes) will be passed with Ultra High Speed Broadband access. The project will develop advanced telecommunications services (broadband internet, voice and pay-tv) and have social benefits such as improved connectivity for public services like health, education, administration, ministries and also associations and NGO's.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

There is no specific environmental legislation in Angola applicable to fixed telecommunication networks. If located in the EU, the project would not require an Environmental Impact Assessment as per directive 2011/92/EU because such investments do not fall in any of the annexes of the directive.

The promoter follows international best practices. The project main environmental impacts during construction are expected to be temporary pollution and traffic disruptions caused by civil works for ducts and from building new technical installations, all in urban areas not affecting zones of nature protection. The main electronic equipment will be housed in office-type buildings or small street cabinets. The majority of the project's cables will be laid underground reducing the visual impact of overhead cables. Concerning electromagnetic emissions, the project does not use wireless access technologies. The main impact will be from the frequent utilisation of power back-up diesel generators but the equipment is modern and adequate pollution mitigation measures are adopted.

The Promoter runs a certified Quality Management System according to the ISO 9001:2008 Standard. Its core activities adhere to the ILO core labour and occupational and public health, safety and security standards. The promoter applies a social responsibility policy and its activities are submitted to a risk management evaluation.

In the cities where land has been acquired and/or leased for the network expansion, the Promoter confirmed no economic or physical resettlement will be needed.

An undertaking will be applied to the loan to ensure that in case of any need for displacement, the Promoter will inform EIB in a timely manner and will proceed in accordance with the EIB standards.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Overall the project is foreseen to have low to moderate environmental and social risks and is acceptable for the Bank financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The promoter has adopted a Management Risk Policy to allow the growth of businesses and to protect the employees, assets, profits and reputation including the risks related to environment and safety. In the project evaluation and design phase, the promoter defines preventive or contingency strategies according to the exposures anticipated for the main risks expected.

The promoter aims at a correct environmental performance and contribution to sustainable development putting a priority on good quality network construction to reduce future corrective maintenance. It has a specific policy for good environmental practices, avoidance of environmental accidents and identification of risks, which is supervised by the Operational managers and applied by all personnel. This policy sets standards for the consumption of electric power and water, for noise emissions, for the protection of fauna and flora, for land and occupation use, and for air pollution. It identifies the most frequent environmental accidents and the preventive measures to be adopted and an Internal Emergency Plan describes the main mitigation tasks to be performed. For each accident a report will be prepared, its causes and effects analysed and corrective/preventive/improvement actions developed. The Department responsible assesses regulatory changes and innovations and applies them to the operations e.g. upgrading the monitoring and quality control requirements.

The network construction permits including the review of environmental issues is under the responsibility of the Departments of Infrastructure and of Economy and Finance of the Provincial Governments, under the authority of the President of the Republic.

To minimise the noise of diesel generators during their operation acoustic insulation is applied in the buildings. The working condition of the generators is periodically checked and maintenance records are kept.

The promoter is certified for Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2008 Standard) but still is not certified on Environmental Management System (ISO 14001 Standard).

Land acquisition and economic or physical resettlement

New networks will be installed in the cities of Lubango, Huambo, Cabinda and Soyo and the existing networks in the metropolitan area of Luanda and in the cities of Lobito and Benguela will be expanded. In Luanda, the expansion of the promoter facilities will be built on an already rented parcel of land. For some of the cities where the network will be expanded, the Promoter confirmed that the lots required have been secured and that these have been vacant, i.e. there was no economic or physical resettlement. In other cities, the procurement for lots is less advanced; however, further vacant lots will be sought as in the case of the existing sites. An undertaking will be applied to the loan to ensure that in case of need for displacement, the Promoter will inform EIB in a timely manner and will proceed in accordance with the EIB standards.